

EDITORIAL

Persistent tiempo muerto under the US-Marcos II regime

RELENTLESS NEOLIBERAL AND FASCIST ATTACKS, along with feudal and semi-feudal exploitation and oppression being enforced by the US-Marcos II regime, compounded by numerous natural disasters such as a year-long El Niño phenomenon, the eruption of Mount Kanlaon, an armyworm infestation, and now the threat of La Niña, have led to ongoing *tiempo muerto* (dead season) or stagnation across the entire island of Negros. Instead of the traditional period of hunger and suffering due to a lack of work and economic opportunities during the milling season, often from April to August, the majority of Negrosanon are ensnared in an unending economic hardship.

Farm workers are bearing the brunt of the extreme dependence of the island on the sugar monocrop economy. Daily wage in sugarcane fields is between ₱300-₱400 during the milling season (even though the minimum wage in agriculture in Western Visayas is set at ₱440 and in Central Visayas, ₱415-₱425) and can plummet to be-



low ₱200 during *tiempos muertos*. Even the income from temporary jobs and non-agricultural work is affected due to the low purchasing power of the population, with most jobs on the island tied to the sugarcane trade.

The stark disparity between actual income per capita and the family living wage of over ₱1,000 across the entire island of Negros is unjustifiable. Due

to high prices of basic commodities and the start of classes, the meager earnings of Negrosanon barely suffice to support the daily needs of an ordinary Negrosanon family. This economic crisis means not only hunger and poverty for agricultural workers but for the entire Negrosanon populace.

Furthermore, the re-export

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of 25,300 metric tons of raw sugar to the US in the coming September and the import of 240,000 metric tons of refined sugar will only exacerbate the already difficult situation in Negros. There is also the growing national debt of ₱15.48 trillion or a whopping ₱129,968 per Filipino.

Due to prolonged *tiempos muertos*, Negrosanons are forced to take on temporary and low-paying jobs such as construction work, domestic help, and other semi-skilled jobs across various businesses. Although this is touted by Marcos Jr and his allies as "opportunities," it is not a sustainable solution and causes significant harm to the livelihood and welfare of the people. Negrosanon farmers are also compelled to surrender their lands to neoliberal interests and become part of a large pool of unemployed workers desperate to work even at low wages.

The socio-economic crisis in Negros island and the entire country shows that Marcos Jr's "Bagong Pilipinas" is not different from his late dictator father's "Bagong Lipunan." It is evident from his recent State of the Nation Address that Marcos Jr is content with band-aid solutions and empty words while maneuvering to solidify his political position in the upcoming re-

actionary elections next year. He has implemented anti-people, anti-poor, and pro-imperialist policies to serve the long-standing interests of his imperialist US overlords.

The rivalry between the Marcos and Duterte cliques have only intensified the crisis, as each faction seeks to strengthen its political position without any real plan for Negrosanons and the entire Filipino populace. There are no concrete steps taken to quickly rehabilitate agriculture and livelihoods on the island. Instead, the reactionary government prioritized establishing the Negros Island Region to consolidate the interests of the ruling class on the island.


As a result, public utilities are monopolized by the ruling class, such as Villar-owned Prime Water, Razon's Negros Electric Power Corporation, and World Bank-backed PUV Modernization program. Aggressive reclamation projects are also underway in the cities of Bacolod and Dumaguete, and operations of harmful mines and quarries are being conducted to aggravate the ongoing crisis on the island. Moreover, a ₱2 billion oil palm plantation in southern Negros Occidental funded by the Con-sunji family, the mining project covering the "Tamlang Valley Zone of Peace" in Negros Oriental, and the planting of commercial trees through the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples

(NCIP) in forests and ancestral lands are being implemented.

To ensure the smooth operation of neoliberal projects, the mercenary AFP and PNP, emboldened by the Anti-Terror Law and backed by the NTF-ELCAC, have committed human rights violations in urban and rural areas to silence any form of dissent. From the Duterte regime to the present, Negros


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#NPANegrosOffensives

ASJC-NPA harass 15th IB detachment



RED FIGHTERS OF THE ARMANDO Sumayang Jr Command - New People's Army Southwest Negros Guerrilla Front (ASJC-NPA) harassed the 15th IB de-

achment in Sitio Bagtic, Brgy. Camindangan, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental last May 28. According to Ka Andrea Guerrero, ASJC-NPA spokesper-

son, the Red fighters' operation would not have been victorious had the masses not participated from its preparation to the actual attack. Meanwhile, a team of Mt. Cansermon Command-New People's Army South Central Negros Guerrilla Front (MCC-NPA) disarmed Danilo Garces from Sitio Danlugon, Brgy. Tan-awan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental on the second week of January. A shotgun, 7 live ammunition and other military items were confiscated from him. Garces was a local military asset who frantically fired his weapon during nighttime. He was also warned by Red fighters for the past years due to his drunken rage. NPA-Negros also mounted four punitive actions from January to June and confiscated military equipment. *AP*

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island remains plagued by victims of extrajudicial killings, unjust arrests, abductions, land grabbing, and more to spread a culture of fear and impunity among the people. No matter how much Marcos Jr pours cold water on the people's grievances, the anger of the Negrosanon against the grave year-long dead times they face continues to boil. Thus, they are even more determined to organize themselves against neoliberal economic projects, low wages, rising prices, land grabbing, feudal and semi-feudal exploitation, and the fascist attacks of the US-Marcos II terrorist regime. Negrosanons also

stand with the entire Filipino populace in resisting the wars launched by imperialist countries like the US and China. Crisis generates resistance. Despite setbacks and hardships, the New People's Army under the absolute leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines is rectifying its errors and continues to be the main weapon of the Filipino people against exploitation and oppression. The five guerrilla fronts in Negros island are actively pointing its weapons against the ruling class and their attack dogs. Conditions remain ever fertile to advance the democratic revolution of the people through a protracted people's war. *AP*

Unity, powerful weapon of the peasant masses



NO WEAPON IS MORE POWERFUL for the poor and exploited working class than their unity in the fight for liberation from feudal and semi-feudal exploitation by the oppressive classes that bind and enslave them.

This is what farm workers in Brgy. Kahil, in the southern part of Negros island, re-

alized after their campaign to increase wages last June.

Nineteen households or 44 individual farm workers from 5 sitios benefitted from the victorious campaign to demand wage increase from two landlords.

Through their collective struggle, their daily wage was increased from ₱200-₱220 by ₱30-₱50, now totaling ₱250. The rate for cultivation also rose from ₱700 to ₱1,300 for two rounds per hectare.

Tatay Astong was extremely happy about the wage increase, as it significantly helps their livelihoods amid rising prices of goods. "If we hadn't had the courage to demand change, we wouldn't have achieved this victory," he said.

Nanay Isyang also said, "The state of our livelihoods is very abysmal, and our previous wages in the haciendas were never enough. We are grateful that our comrades helped us to organize and mobilize, leading us to this assured triumph."

This is the second series of waging anti-feudal struggles during *tiempos muertos*. Last May, they launched initial mass campaigns, but the recent struggle represents their biggest victory yet.

Through the Party's guidance, farmers were able to build their revolutionary mass organization. Once again, they witnessed their power in addressing their legitimate demands against the ruling classes, despite the intense militarization in their area. **RP**

15th IB kill farmer, 2 hors de combat

THE 15TH IB AND PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) committed successive brutal killings in southern Negros in the span of four days from July 29 to August 1. The aforementioned troops also declared three fake encounters to cover up their crimes.

Combined forces of the 15th IB and Special Action Forces (SAF) of the PNP killed farmer Ramon Enseniales, 69 years old, last July 29, 1:00 PM in Sitio Pasto, Brgy. Basak, Cauayan, Negros Occidental. The troops raided his house, and subsequently arrested him and brought him to the woods. He was tortured before being killed.

The Armando Sumayang Jr Command-New People's Army (ASJC-NPA) denied that Enseniales was a member of the NPA. The victim was forced to evacuate due to being incessantly harassed and trailed by the military.

Meanwhile, two hors de combat Red fighters of the ASJC-NPA were killed by the 15th IB in Brgy. Camindangan, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental. Reggie Fundador (Ka Tata), 23 years old, was arrested while walking towards Sitio Badjang in the same barangay. The day after, July 30, Ka Tata's cadaver was discovered along Crossing Magtanday and was obviously subjected to torture before being killed. Similarly, on August 1, 15th IB troops murdered Alvin Lumagsao Sinsano (Ka Zian), 34 years old, in Sitio Cambugiot of the same barangay, when the house he

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Amnesty, desperate and deceitful move of Marcos Jr

THE US-MARCOS II REGIME'S AMNESTY scheme for former rebels is duplicitous, according to Ka Bayani Obrero, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF)-Negros after the National Amnesty Commission (NAC) opened to receive amnesty applications for former rebels in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental from July 8 to July 12.

According to him, "The amnesty offer is a desperate step of the US-Marcos II regime to achieve his goal to defeat the entire revolutionary movement this year. His aim is to solidify the Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) in the island and to focus Armed Forces if the Philippines (AFP) troops on the forthcoming war of the US against China."

The AFP boasted of a weakening revolutionary movement, and yet majority of the 'surrendered' mentioned by the military are mere farmers who were suspected NPA members and supporters.

NDF-Negros called for Negrosanons to "not be deceived and persuaded by money

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was resting in was surrounded by the fascist troop.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), PNP, and their paramilitary, under the command of US-Marcos Jr, should answer for their violations of the protocols of war and international humanitarian law," according to Guerrero.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) vehemently condemned the killing of hors de combat Red fighters. "This is part of the brutal tactics utilized by military and police forces to threaten the broad mases of the people," said Ka Marco Valbuena, spokesperson of the CPP.

Additionally, troops of the 79th IB militarized 10 barangays in Calatrava, Negros Occidental last July. The said military occupied houses of farmers and public structures like churches, gymnasiums, schools and barangay centers. Soldiers closely monitored civilian movement. 79th IB assets harassed and threatened residents who were suspected as NPA supporters and have links



to the revolutionary movement.

In Central Negros, militarization in peasant communities has been relentless since July. 62nd IB troops harassed Isko Marco and ransacked his house in Sitio Kabulay, Brgy. Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, last July 24, around 11 in the morning. The military illegally detained Marco and his relatives, who were at their house at that time, and subjected them to interrogation.

In the municipality of Cauayan, Negros Occidental,

farmer associations faced threats and intimidation last June. Troops from the 15th IB conducted house-to-house searches for association officials and members, investigating their activities and forcing them to surrender documents, including their constitutions and by-laws. The military called a meeting with residents, pressuring them to surrender and compiling a list of names from each household, as they suspected these individuals of being supporters of the NPA. **RP**

Oil palm plantation in Candoni: widespread land-grabbing

IN THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE US-Marcos II regime's neoliberal policies, foreign monopoly corporations and local comprador-landlords in the cities and the countryside are primarily favored. Under this policy, the reactionary state itself through its agencies scheme to allow imperialists and other ruling classes to steal the vast agricultural land to build agro-industrial plantations for products such as oil palm. They mercilessly and brutally evict residents from their livelihoods, residents who have been working for decades and even centuries since their ancestors. Such has transpired for farmers and indigenous people in the mountain barangays of Candoni, Negros Occidental.

Through verbal acrobatics and lies, Hacienda Asia Plantation, Inc (HAPI), a joint venture agreement between comprador-landlords Alfred Joseph Araneta and Sirawai Plywood and Lumber Corporation owned by the Consunji family, acquired the 6,653 hectares of land in Brgy. Gatuslao, Agboy, and Payauan in the town of Candoni. Due to the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), HAPI is allowed to plant oil palm in the area in a span of 25 years. Over 1,000 peasant and indigenous people (IP) families will be affected. These families have been

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and false promises offered by the fascist AFP and NTF-EL-cac."

Meanwhile, according to Ka Andrea Guererro, Armando Sumayang Jr Command-New People's Army Southwest Negros Guerrilla Front (ASJC-NPA) that "the corrupt and anti-people Marcos Jr government and the brutal AFP, Philippine National Police (PNP) and NTF-Elcac is offering fake amnesty."

Surrenderedees do not have a guarantee from the reactionary government. "Instead of respecting and giving them their civil rights, surrenderedees are vulnerable and, in several cases, are forced to become spies, informants, and guides for combat operations and Retooled Community Support Program (RCSPs) of the AFP," said Ka Andrea. **AP**

Rebo

*Ang ordinaryo nga tawo
Natural lang maghandom
Para sa ila kaugalingon
Ug sa ila mga hinigugma.*

*Pero para sa uban nga namuklat
Sa reyalidad ug kamatuoran,
Ang sakripisyo ug kalisdanan
Permi nila ginapanginbabawan.
Ang ila kaandamong mukat-on
Sa panginabuhian sa masa
Nagtudlo og mga batakang
pamatasan
Ug magpalig-on pa sa ilang
paglantawan.*

*Ang mga kasinatian
Kuyog ang masa'g kauban
Nahimong giya para mabalikan
Ang pangutana,
kung "para kang kinsa?"*

*Sa pagpadayon nga pagpatuman
Sa mga rebong gimbuhaton,
Nakita nila ang husto nga dalan
Padulong sa hingpit nga
kadaugan.*

*Bisan pipila lang ang nangahas,
Nagsakripisyo silang biyaan
Ang komportableng kahimtang sa
ila
Para makighiusa sa mayorya.*

*Kinabuhi man nila ihalad,
Kanunay silang naga-abante
Para sa katilingban
Nga wa'y gipahimuslan.*

*Normal lang nga makasinati
Og krisis sa kaugalingon
Kay bisan ang mga pukaw
Padayon pang nagremolde.*

*Ang higayong mag-atras
Kanunay gapaduol
Pero kini sige
ginapanginbabawan
Tungod ang mga rebolusyonaryo,
Prinsipyado ug dili ordinaryo. **AP***

*For Atty. Hannah Jay Cesista
(Ka Maya), a graduate of UP-
Cebu and University of San
Carlos, who was 'salvaged'
(killed) last February in Bilar,
Bohol with four other hors de
combat.*

February 28, 2024

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residing in the area and earning from livelihoods for 60-70 years in Candoni. Four thousand of the 6,652 hectares are part of the IP's ancestral domain.

Currently, the initial preparation for the plantation is ongoing. There is a nursery in Brgy. Gatuslao which houses 870,000 imported oil palm seedlings. In the process of preparing the land for planting, the farms of 100 families that produce corn, pineapple, sugar cane and vegetables have been damaged.

In Negros, the forests in Candoni have been severely deforested by the Insular Lumber Corporation (ILCO), an American monopoly logging corporation favored by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s. They were allowed to haphazardly cut and harvest trees all over the island. For the longest time, the DENR never had the initiative to restore the forests in the area. The residents however, collectively acted to convert the area into agricultural land to produce their food and needs. Farmers applied to the DENR for the IFMA so they can administer the public land to ensure their houses and livelihoods. But their hopes were swindled when the DENR granted the IFMA to landlord-compradors instead of them.

On October 14, 2009, the DENR awarded the IFMA to Atty. Juan Orola, a former congressman and owner of a big maritime school and company in Bacolod City. This was done through the deceitful establishment of the Agropolis Forest Farmers Association (AFFA) that applied for the IFMA. Prior to reaching 5 months, there were already negotiations to transfer the IFMA grant to

HAPI owner Alfred Joseph Araneta for an amount of ₱10,150,000. This is a violation of the IFMA. Provisions of the IFMA state that the land must be administered for at least 3 years before being allowed transfer. The transaction was approved by the DENR secretary on March 12, 2010. Araneta fooled Orola by issuing a ₱3 million check as initial payment, but the latter was never able to receive a peso from the aforementioned amount.

For 13 years, the IFMA had been transferred to Araneta and yet the land was never developed. The local government and residents complained about HAPI to the DENR. Based on an investigation in November 2018 by the DENR Region VI and Forest Management Bureau, they released a resolution to cancel the IFMA of HAPI and to grant this to farmer beneficiaries due to the violations. However, the DENR secretary favored HAPI and in August 2023, the latter was allowed to enter a joint venture agreement with the Consunji family to plant oil palm.

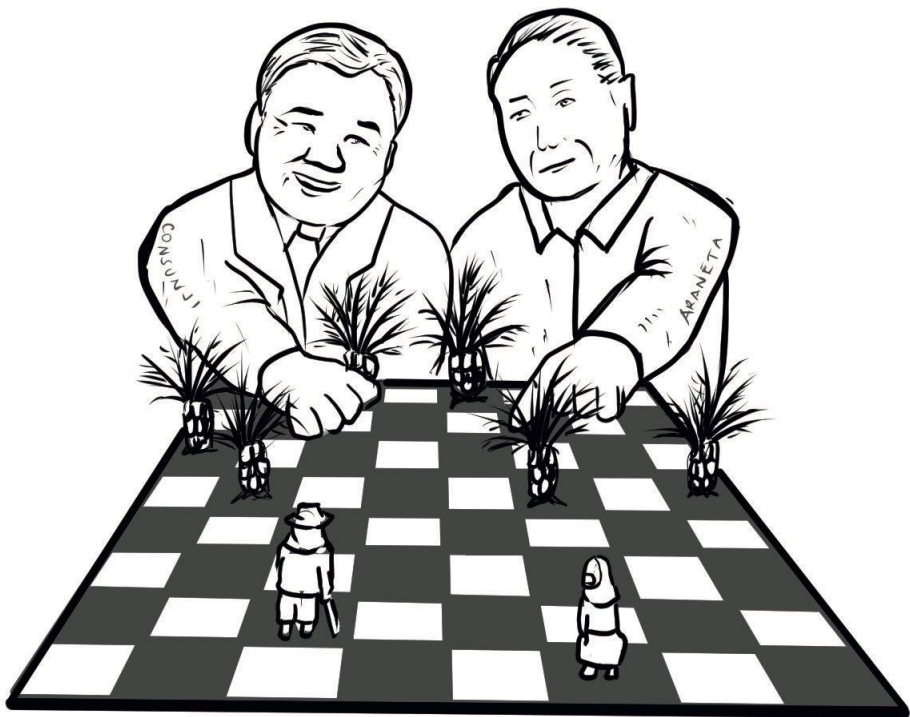
Palm oil, or the oil from the fruit of the oil palm tree, be-

came a booming business worldwide due to it being an important ingredient for the food, cosmetic, and biofuel industry. In 2022, the Philippines was the 39th biggest crude palm oil exporter. Based on the Philippine Palm Oil Industry (PPOI) Road Map 2024-2033, the oil palm industry aims to add 975,300 hectares all over the country.

It has been proven all over the world that the palm oil industry is dangerous to the environment due to wide deforestation and the use of dangerous chemicals. This has directly contributed to global warming, floods, and the pollution of land and water.

Vast oil palm plantations in the country can be seen in Mindanao, Palawan and Bohol and in 2023 has occupied 63,933 hectares. This has only developed due to excessive land-grabbing of farmer and IP lands by foreign and local palm oil corporations since the 70s, during the time of the Marcos Sr. dictatorship. His regime utilized military and private goons to threaten, har-

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Struggle against oil palm plantation in Candoni continues

A DIALOGUE WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN 100 farmers and local leaders in Candoni, Negros Occidental last July 26 regarding the bulldozing of their lands to allow the 2-billion peso oil palm plantation owner by the Consunji family. This was attended by residents of barangays Gatuslao, Agboy, and Payauan in the said town.

Farmers condemned the joint venture between Hacienda Asia Plantations Incorporated (HAPI) of Alfred Joseph Araneta and Sirawai Plywood and Lumber Corporation owned by the Consunji family.

The farmers are concerned that the project will displace their homes and disrupt their livelihoods. They state that 4,000 hectares of the 6,652 hectares of forested land are part of the ancestral domain of Indigenous Peoples (IPs). They have questioned the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) about its decision to grant the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) to HAPI, as well as why the agency permitted the reclassification of land for an oil palm plantation for a period of 25 years.

On the other hand, farmers also learned that HAPI was granted the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) in 2009, allowing the company to operate for 25 years.

In a recent dialogue, Mayor Rey Ruiz promised to protect the community's interests and to convey their concerns to HAPI.

The lawyers for the farmers and the Gatuslao Agro-Forestry, Banana and Sugarcane Farmers' Association (GABASFA) are preparing to file a Writ of Kalikasan with the Supreme Court against

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ass, kill, and deceive farmers and IPs. Substantial pieces of lands are subjected to the state's bogus land reform and never benefitted farmers due to leaseback and contract growing for several years and low prices of rent. Plantation workers suffered under slave-like working conditions and wages. This does not differ from the military fascism in the countryside and centuries-long enslavement of sugar industry workers in Negros Island.

Foreign monopoly corporations and the local ruling class use agencies such as the DENR, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) along with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as instruments to steal lands from farmers and IPs. They also ensure their protection through AFP troops around their plantations. The people's rage against their land rights are faced with military brutality. The masses in the countryside, due to livelihood loss, are forced to enslavement in plantation work, receiving the brunt of environmental destruction, and suffering extreme hunger and poverty.

Nothing has changed in regards to the anti-people policies of Marcos Sr. and Marcos Jr. It

is expected that land-grabbing of peasant and IP lands will exacerbate under the state's neoliberal assault in Negros Island. Agro-industrial plantations will be built in rural areas all over the island, not only in Candoni. The situation requires courageous struggle of farmers and indigenous peoples alongside democratic sectors to defend their land rights and the environment. The advancement and intensification of the armed struggle has been proven by history in Negros with their ability to discharge oppressive and exploitative classes in the countryside. This has also returned the stolen land to the farmers and IPs. **RP**

Leaseback agreement - vast lands are subjected to aryendo (land leased under land reform, as allowed between cooperatives of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) and agro-industrial corporations facilitated by DAR

Contract growing - agreement between ARB cooperatives and corporations to plant export products in land under land reforms. This will be financed by corporations through loans and will exclusively sell said products to the financing corporations, with their dictated prices

Marcos Jr's SONA, out-of-touch with reality

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF the Philippines (NDF) - Negros described Marcos Jr's third State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22 as "floating in the air and not in touch with reality." According to Ka Bayani Obrero, spokesperson for NDF-Negros, "Marcos Jr merely skimmed over the problems of hunger and poverty affecting the people but offered no concrete solutions, only insignificant aid."

Obrero further stated that peace negotiations were also not included in his SONA, despite the joint communiqué signed between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the NDFP in November 2023.

Marcos Jr further exaggerated the issue of POGO and portrayed himself as a nationalist to overshadow his subservience to the US in turning the Philippines into a military base for the escalating inter-imperialist conflict between the US and China.

Meanwhile, the chapter of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) in Central Negros stated that the people are experiencing a "Failed Philippines" under his administration. According to the group, Marcos Jr remains blind and deaf to the plight of farmers in Central Negros, and his so-called "progress" does not include the agricultural sector at all.

Kabataang Makabayan (KM) - Central Negros was also dismayed by Marcos Jr's SONA because it did not discuss the issues of the youth sector at all.

"The agenda of the regime and the DepEd is clear: to distort history and militarize

schools. This is evident in their desperate efforts to implement the Matatag Curriculum and mandatory ROTC. Furthermore, every year, the budgets of state universities are cut to increase funding for the military," said Ka EK Jacolbe, spokesperson for KM-Central Negros.

For Ka JB Regalado, spokesperson of the Leonardo Panaligan Command-New People's Army Central Negros Guerrilla Front (LPC-NPA), there is little to expect from Marcos Jr's SONA, as its contents are merely promises and far-shot dreams that serve the economic and political desires and interests of large landowners, local comprador bourgeoisie, and bureaucratic capitalists.

Marcos Jr's SONA is no different from his previous ones. "Essentially, Marcos Jr's SONA only sought to whitewash the present fascist, neoliberal, and imperialist aims of the US-Marcos II regime," according to Ka Dionesio Magbuelas, spokesperson of the MCC-NPA.

Meanwhile, an all-day fasting protest was held by 100 political prisoners on Negros Island during Marcos Jr's SONA. They called on the regime for the immediate release of political prisoners on humanitarian grounds, including the elderly and infirm people, and urged the resumption of peace talks between the GRP and the NDF. **AP**



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the project, citing threats to the environment and food security.

Meanwhile, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Negros condemned the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the environment committee of the Local Government Unit (LGU), and the LGUs themselves for approving land reclassification without considering the impact on residents' lives, livelihoods, and the environment.

The Paghidaet sa Kauswa-gan Development Group (PDG), a non-government organization that supports farmers, also expressed concerns about the potential effects of the oil palm plantation on the environment and local communities.

Currently, the Negros Initiative for Climate and Environment (NICE), an environmental organization, has called on the DENR to halt the oil palm plantation. In their position paper dated August 12, they urged a thorough examination of various issues, including the environmental impacts, the validity of the IFMA, and the effects on the local community. **AP**

Attacks against Negros NGOs intensify

THE REACTIONARY GOVERNMENT HAS RELENTLESSLY attacked the Paghida-et sa Kauswagan Development Group (PDG) Inc., a non-government organization (NGO) in southern Negros.

On April 18, the government filed multiple charges of “terrorist financing”, or violation of Terrorism Financing and Suppression Act of 2012, against Clarissa Ramos, Felipe Levy Gelle, Federico Salvilla, and Perla Pavillar, along with Darryl Al-bañez, who is not a member of PDG Inc. but has supported their activities.

According to PDG Inc., the charges of "terrorism financing" against active and former members of the NGO are unjustified. The group further stated that the state uses these allegations to portray their organization as illegitimate and to impose sanctions against them.

In solidarity with PDG Inc., supporters held a picket rally in front of the Hall of Justice in Bacolod City on May 10, calling for the dismissal of the cases against development workers.

Meanwhile, on July 17, the office of PDG Inc. received notification that their account at Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, had been closed. This account had been maintained since 1995 to fund their projects from local and international sources. The bank provided no adequate explanation for the alleged violations leading to the account's closure.

The military also threatened officials and members of farmer associations supported by PDG Inc. in barangays Orong, Salong, and Hilamonan in Kabankalan City, as well as Brgy. San Juan in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental. They were coerced into signing a resolution denouncing PDG Inc., which soldiers have accused of being affiliated with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA).

Human Rights Advocates Negros (HRAN) condemned the 15th Infantry

5 organizers victimized by trumped-up charges freed

THE COURT DISMISSED THE CASES of illegal possession of firearms and explosives against Imelda Sultan, a worker-leader with the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW)-North Negros, on July 10.

Additionally, four members of the so-called Escalante 8—Joel Guillermo, spokesperson of NFSW-North Negros; Leon Charita, a member of NFSW-Toboso; and Rolly Hernando and Kenneth Serondo, both members of Teatro Obrero—were freed after the court dismissed similar cases on July 31.

Sultan was arrested alongside Lindy Perocho, another NFSW member, on November 1, 2019, using a defective search warrant issued by Judge Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert of the Quezon City Trial Court. Perocho had previously been released after her case was dismissed last May.

These warrants were the unjust basis for the arrest of 57 activists in Negros during extensive crackdowns on the offices of progressive organizations on October 31 and November 1, 2019. Human rights groups are calling for Judge Villavert to be disqualified from any high judicial position, particularly following her recommendation for a role in the Court of Appeals last May.

The Escalante 8 were also victims of planted evidence after being stopped at a checkpoint by the 79th IB while in a vehicle campaigning for the commemoration of the Escalante Massacre on September 18, 2018, in Brgy. Jonob-jonob, Escalante City, Negros Occidental.

According to NFSW, this victory was achieved through sustained campaigns, including court battles, street protests, and outreach to international organizations. "Government agents aim to suppress, intimidate, and halt the struggle of farm workers," they stated.

Bienvenido Ducay, a member of NFSW, Aiza Obreso from KADAMAY, and Carlo Apurado and Reynaldo Saura from Teatro Obrero remain incarcerated.

NFSW emphasized that this victory is part of a broader call for the release of all political prisoners who are victims of the brutality of the reactionary state. **RP**

Situation of poldets in Negros prisons

POLDETS (POLITICAL DETAINEES) AND OTHER prisoners are suffering from the gross negligence of the reactionary government to those incarcerated.

One aspect of this situation is the overcrowding of prisons, with the Philippines ranking as the third country in the world with the most congested prisons. Aside from one or two so-called model prisons on the island, facilities in Negros are severely overcrowded. For instance, in a particular city jail in North Negros, the majority of detainees are forced to sleep on the floor due to a lack of double-decker beds. In another municipal jail in Central Negros housing over 100 inmates, only 30 have access to beds, leaving the rest to sleep like sardines in order to avoid the floor. Unfortunately, many prisoners still end up on the cement.

Another risk for the poldets' health—both physical and mental—is the fact that they are not allowed to be exposed to sunlight, especially from 6:00 to 9:00 AM. In a south Negros jail, prisoners are only allowed sunning for 30 minutes before being padlocked inside their cells until nighttime. In a municipal jail in the central part of the island, prisoners are only given an hour of sunning for an entire month.

Another grave problem for poldets and other prisoners is the lack of food budget. Currently, the reactionary congress only allots them a ₱70 daily budget. But due to extreme corruption, apart from the long-standing lack

of funds for prisons, this budget is spent not only on food but also for travel expenses during hearings, for guests, and other costs. Additionally, the fund has not increased since 2018, despite the rising prices of basic goods and services.

What's worse is that prisoners are restricted in the entry of basic needs brought by their visiting families. This is done to force prisoners to buy goods from cooperatives run by jail guards. For example, in a central Negros city jail, prisoners are only allowed to receive 3-5 coffee sticks and 3 shampoo sachets from visitors. Basic goods in the prison are priced 50-90% higher, ensuring that jail guards receive "dividends" monthly.

Another significant problem for prisons is the lack of water supply. In a northern Negros city jail, prisoners are forced to spend ₱1,000 monthly for drinking water sold by jail guard cooperatives, due to the lack and muddy quality of tap water. In another municipal jail in Central Negros, tap water is non-existent, forcing prisoners to spend almost ₱1,500 per month for mineral water for drinking and cooking, as well as for washing dishes, bathing, and sanitation.

Basically, service programs for prisoners are extremely lackluster, failing to address their needs for connection with loved ones.

Continue "Situation..." on page 12



"Attacks..." from page 10


Battalion for harassing and threatening the life of Joselito Macapobre, a fisherman and witness for PDG Inc. in their legal cases. His home was forcibly entered on June 11 in Brgy. Guiljungan, Cauayan, and his belongings were searched. Prior to this, Macapobre was summoned by the military to retract his statements and support for PDG Inc.

The reactionary state's attacks against PDG Inc. have in-

tensified since the murder of Atty. Benjamin Ramos Jr., the former executive director, in 2018. Established in 1980, PDG Inc. has advocated for the rights of farmers and fisherfolk, promoting sustainable agriculture and social reforms.

Additionally, three NGOs in Negros Oriental—Negros Oriental Network of NGOs (NegOrNet), Panaghugpong sa Tuburan for Rural Women Empowerment & Development Inc., and Panaghupong sa mga Gagmay nga Bayanihang Grupo sa

Negros Oriental (PaGBaGo)—were charged with the same "terrorist financing" cases on May 13.

For the past few years, these organizations have been red-tagged by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as funders of the NPA. The groups have denied these allegations, asserting that they work in partnership with provincial and local governments to provide social services to impoverished communities. 

"Situation..." from page 11

A significant aspect of this issue is the provision for prisoners to contact their families, partners, and friends. While almost all prisons permit video calls or voice calls, many of these come at a cost (charged for load), are infrequent (often limited to once a week or month), have a restricted duration (5-10 minutes per call), and lack privacy (with jail guards present during conversations).

Families are allowed to visit their imprisoned loved ones for three to six days per week. However, several prisons in Negros impose strict limits on the duration of these visits. According to the reactionary law Republic Act 7438, or the Law for Certain Rights of Prisoners, a close relative of a prisoner includes a spouse (or fiancée), children, parents, siblings, uncles and aunts, and nieces and nephews. These unjust regulations violate not only the intent of the aforementioned law but also the 2015 United Nations Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

According to the reactionary government, the supposed purpose of prisons is the rehabilitation of prisoners. Currently, the most common form of rehabilitation involves allowing various religious groups to conduct masses, prayer meetings, and similar activities. Some prisons offer an Alternative Learning System (ALS) that enables prisoners to earn elementary and junior high school diplomas. However, very few prisons provide opportunities for productive income-generating projects, such as vegetable

gardening and pastry baking.

Not all prisons have adequate leisure facilities for prisoners. In a central Negros municipal jail, the use of a small basketball court is limited as prisoners must take turns. In another prison with over 100 inmates, only one cell has a TV for entertainment shared among all.

Overall, this so-called "rehabilitation" program serves merely as a form of consolation for prisoners, many of whom are victims of an exploitative system. Some are also affected by the counter-insurgency efforts of the reactionary government. For example, in a central Negros city jail, a religious group distributed counterrevolutionary propaganda during sermons. In another city jail, graduates of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) were hailed as living proof that "former NPAs have returned to the fold of law and have rejected armed struggle against the government."

The numerous problems in prisons are only worsened by the undeniable corruption and the implementation of harsh

policies, especially affecting poldets. For instance, it is considered SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) that the food budget is diminished at the national and regional levels before it even reaches individual prisons. In many of these facilities, guards and their informants closely monitor the movements of poldets and their visitors, and poldets are denied the opportunity to hold positions in groups (or prisoner associations). The most extreme example is in a northern Negros city jail, where poldets are prohibited from speaking with fellow poldets who are not their cell-mates.

The dire situation of poldets reveals how the reactionary government continues to oppress and exploit revolutionary activists imprisoned within its walls. Consequently, every day, prisoners and the broader community expose the ineffectiveness of a reactionary justice system in a corrupt societal framework. *AP*

Next issue: The invincible spirit of poldets to serve the people





SCHOOLHOUSE

Philippine semi-feudal economic system

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL genuine proletarian revolutionaries to master the semi-colonial and semi-feudal analysis of our country. Why? Because this lays out the class basis of the strategy and tactics of the national democratic revolution (NDR) through the protracted people's war (PPW). It is fundamental that all revolutionaries understand this deeply.

This was a significant correction during the Second Great Rectification Movement of the 90s. Within the Party's national leadership, the belief emerged that the Philippines has transitioned from a semi-feudal to a semi-capitalist society. This perspective originated from revisionist elements who argued that urbanization had occurred simply because the number of factories and urban residents have increased, suggesting that there were now more workers than farmers. This erroneous analysis led to wrong strategies and tactics of the Strategic Counter Offensive (SCO), which emphasized a quick victory rather than adhering to the theory of protracted war. It also resulted in the assertion that the primary battlefield was in the parliament rather than the countryside, promoting urban insurrection in the cities.

This shows the erosion of basic principles or their extremely shallow understanding of the economic system of the country. This also reflects their lack of theoretical study and knowledge, and practical SICA (Social Investigation and Class Analysis) work. They did not utilize Lenin's point that the living soul of Marxism was "concrete analysis of the concrete conditions" and Mao Zedong's "extracting the truth from facts".

What is semi-feudalism?

According to Ka Joma, "the interaction of foreign imperialism (particularly US imperialism in the Philippines) and local feudalism has bore what we call semi-feudalism".

When US imperialism colonized the Philippines in 1900, it preserved the local feudal structures that had developed during over 300 years of Spanish colonial rule. This maintenance of feudalism served multiple purposes: it provided a

social base, supplied cheap raw materials and labor for American industries, and created a market for surplus products and capital.

Under U.S. imperialism, the self-sustaining economy characteristic of the feudal system was transformed into a commodity system reliant on money as the primary instrument of trade. The Philippines primarily produced and exported raw materials for capitalist industries, particularly in agro-industrial and mining products, which meant the economy no longer focused on meeting the basic needs of the country and the Filipino people. Local production and agriculture suffered due to insufficient support, as the emphasis shifted to importing goods from capitalist nations. This led to the emergence of an import-dependent and export-oriented semi-feudal system.

In the semi-feudal economy, no longer does the landlord class hold power, but the big comprador bourgeoisie. They act as the major traders

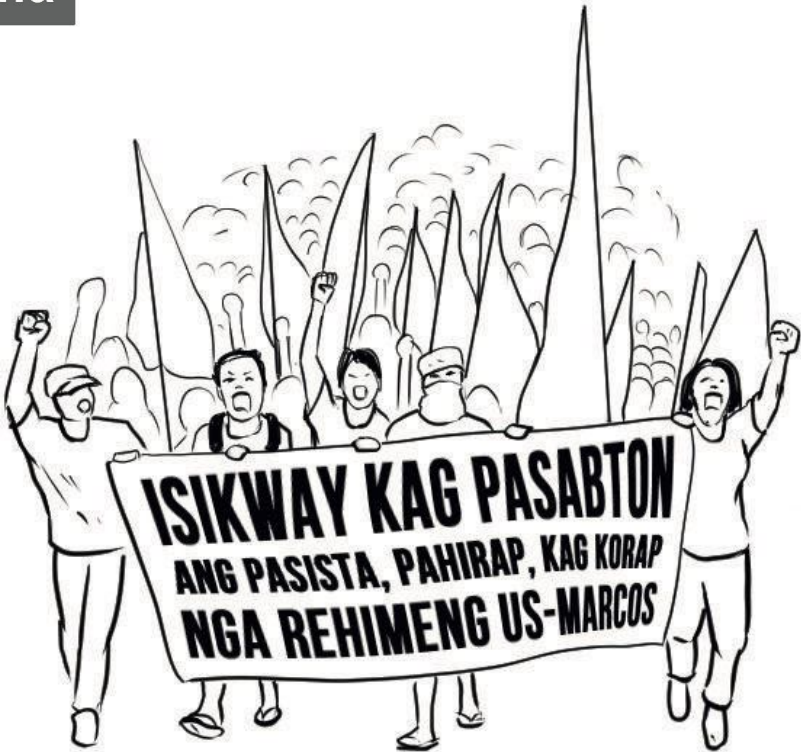
Continue "Philippine.." on page 14





Negros groups denounce Marcos' 3rd SONA

Multisectoral groups headed by Bayan-Negros held a protest rally in the Fountain of Justice in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental last July 22 to denounce the Marcos administration for the false promises of his State of the Nation Address (SONA). The groups said that there is no significant change of development in Marcos' Bagong Pilipinas. Instead, the ordinary people face a worsening economic crisis. They also con-



Continue "News..." on page 15

"Philippine..." from page 13

and financial agents of foreign monopoly capitalism, owning huge chunks of land and extractive businesses that serve as base for raw material export in exchange of imported goods and other manufactures. Known big comprador bourgeoisie

in the country are the Sys, Razons, Villars, Angs, Tans, Zobel de Ayalas, Consunjis, Aboitizes, and others. They are also called landlord-compradors because they are also a land-owning class.

Negros is an example of the semi-feudal economy—being tied to the monocrop sugar industry to serve the needs of foreign monopoly capitalism. As the Philippines' "sugar bowl", 2/3 of the country's sugar production comes from Negros. 62% of the land is planted with sugar cane and 12 out of 27 sugar mills are located here. Farm workers numbering over 380,000 receive extremely low wages and are subjected to slave like working conditions. Also, over 18,000 sugar industry workers suffer from low wages and job insecurity. The vast mountains are being mined by destructive foreign companies and are planted with export crops such as oil palm, coffee, pineapple, and banana.

The worsening and deepening permanent crisis of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal ruling system in the country is connected with the protracted depression of the world capitalist system. Revolutionary forces must firmly hold on to the correct analysis of Philippine society as semi-colonial and semi-feudal to strengthen their grip on the political line of NDR through PPW in order to overthrow the exploitative system and replace it with socialism. **AP**

Primer on Marxism
(translated to hiligaynon)

by Comrade Jose Maria Sison
can now be downloaded from
www.negrosrevportal.wordpress.com

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No actual land reform occurred in Marcos Jr's term, his **boast** of distributing 130,000 titles is merely the implementation of the SPLIT program, where in lieu of collective CLOAs, he distributed individual titles to each beneficiary.



NEDA's declaration that **₱64 per day (or ₱21 per meal)** for every Filipino is already considered above poverty is **absurd**, as even **a kilo of rice is ₱55 at the minimum**.

"News..." from page 14

demned the Marcos administration for over-spending in his SONA. They also pushed that Marcos should seriously consider resumption of peace talks with the NDFP to address the roots of the armed conflict. His rejection of such only means that he promotes wanton violence much like his predecessor Duterte, according to Bayan-Negros.

Traditional jeepney drivers celebrate PUVMP suspension

Last August 1, operators of traditional jeepneys in Bacolod City, led by Kabakod Negros Transport Coalition (KNETCO) and UN-DOC-PISTON, gave away free rides to passengers from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in celebration of the temporary victory after the Senate resolution to suspend the PUV Modernization Program. The caravan was led by over 200 drivers. Despite the small victory, they continued to call for the junking of the modernization program.

Urban poor reject the threat of dislocation

Over 4,060 households are threatened of dislocation due to the agreement between the

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Bacolod Local Government Unit (LGU). The agreement led by Bacolod City Mayor Benitez, involves the application of a special patent for public land involving 10 barangays in the city. This was discussed in a public land forum headed by the urban poor last July 28.

The goal of the forum was to strengthen the conviction of urban poor communities and other affected sectors to militantly fight for their rights for decent housing.

Youth and students in Negros grade Marcos administration as "failure"

Over 60 youth and students convened for the Negros State of the Youth Address last July 27, a week after Pres. Marcos' State of the Nation Address. They pointed out the continuing commercialization of education and the attacks on academic freedom as the basis for the more than two years of Pres Marcos as a "failure". They also drafted demands of the youth, which contain calls for school administrators to stop red-tagging in campuses and to defend academic freedom of student leaders. *AP*



74th IB arrest 3 farmers, 7 minors in Samar

TROOPS OF THE 74TH IB arrested two farmers Ryan Arnesto and Marlo Turbanada last July 8 in Sitio Canonghan, Brgy. Osmeña, Palapag, Northern Samar when the two were going to their coconut field to gather charcoal.

According to witnesses, Arnesto was tortured and killed by the military after he was arrested. He was tied to a coconut tree, then wrapped a noose around his neck, then the military tauntingly pulled the rope up and down before shooting him with bullets. Afterwards, Arnesto's cadaver was dragged towards the neighboring barangay.

Meanwhile Turbanada was tortured physically and mentally and forced to guide the military elements in a combat operation against Red fighters.

The Rodante Urtal Command-New People's Army of Northern Samar (RUC-NPA) called for the people of Palapag, church groups, local officials of Palapag and independent human rights organizations to investigate the situation of residents in the sitio, and to defend and aid them to seek justice from the abuses of AFP forces and the US-Marcos II regime.

Arnesto and Turbanada have long been red-tagged by the military and suspected as having connections with the revolutionary movement. They were also among the farmers who sought help from local officials to release their illegally-detained relatives who were

caught by the military. Up to now, Arnesto's wife Myrna remains incarcerated since May, including his minor sibling who was arrested by the soldiers last June 2.

7 minors hostaged

74th IB troops illegally detained 7 minors last June 2 in Sitio Canonghan in the same barangay. They are among the 11 farmers who were arrested after the military open fired at their coconut field. The military then declared that the children were 'rescued' because they were 'food couriers' of the NPA.

According to RUC-NPA's statement, no encounter happened. The children were host-

aged to force their civilian parents to surrender despite being mere farmers.

Meanwhile, Coni Ledesma, chairperson of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Special Office for the Protection of Children (NDFP-SOPC) said that "the hostage of minors in the context of armed conflicts is a clear violation of the international humanitarian law and customary humanitarian laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Philippines signed." She also called for the immediate release of the minors and to return them to their families. *RP*



NPA-Panay honor martyrs

HIGHEST HONORS AND SALUTE WERE bestowed by the Jose Percival Estocada Jr Command-New People's Army Central Panay (JPEJC-NPA) to seven martyred Red fighters after a series of defensive actions on August 5 to 8 in the towns of Lambunao and Calinog, all part of Iloilo.

The martyrs were identified as Benjamin Cortel (Ka Mamang/Ruby) killed in Brgy. Aglonok, Calinog last August 5, Jose Jerry Takaisan (Ka Miller) martyred in Brgy. Cabatangan, Lambunao last August 7, and another five martyred in Brgy. Aglonok last August 8 were Romulo Ituriaga Gangoso (Ka Pedik/Regan), Armando Rogelio Sabares (Ka Nene/Kulot), Aurelio "Boy" Bosque (Ka Rio/Zarko/Baijan), Jovelyn Silverio (Ka Akay/Purang), and Jiellmor Gauranoc (Ka Tango/Doc).

"Their martyrdom serves as guiding light to the continuous spark and advance for the fulfilment of the just cause fought by the masses in Panay and the entire country," according to the statement of JPEJC-NPA.

The successive battles are the result of heightened and more brutal military operations in the boundaries of Janiuay, Lambunao and Calinog in Iloilo, Valderama in Antique and Libacao in Aklan. These area were placed under focused military operations for a long time by combined troops

of the 12th IB, 82nd IB, 61st IB and Division Reconnaissance Company under the 3rd ID, troops of the Regional Public Safety Battalion of Philippine National Police (RPSB-PNP) and CAFGU.

Meanwhile, families of the seven martyred Red fighters have suspicions that the military has violated human rights and international humanitarian law in the killing of their kin. According to Bayan-Panay and Panay Alliance Karapatan, the families observed various types of wounds, including big and small holes in the chest, broken arm bones, and several bruises from head to toe on the victims indicating that they were probably subjected to severe pain and torture before being killed.

Bayan-Panay strongly believes that the military was trying to cover up the truth behind the encounter. Families were coerced to sign documents stating that they will not file cases against the military and were even approached by soldiers in their homes.

The Communist Party of the Philippines also declared that "the Party is determined to seek justice for all victims and to hold Marcos Jr and his ilk accountable for their war crimes before the people's court or appropriate international tribunals." *AP*

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Court dismisses 2 remaining cases against Cebu 8

AFTER FOUR YEARS, A CEBU court dismissed two remaining cases against the Cebu 8 last July 27 due to lack of evidence. This was announced to the public last July 3.

Last June 5, 2020, police illegally arrested activists Jaime Paglinawan Sr, April Dyan Gumanao, Joahanna Veloso, Janry Ubal, Bern Cañedo, Al Inking and Nar Porlas while conducting a rally against the Anti-Terrorism Law in the University of the Philippines (UP)-Cebu. Clement Corominas Jr, a

passerby, was also apprehended at the time. They were arrested due to the accusation that their protest violated quarantine protocols during the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Jaime Paglinawan, chairperson of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Central Visayas, "the dismissal of the remaining cases against Cebu 8 confirms the victory against police abuses who use their power to arrest, detain individuals using the law and silence dissenters."

He added that no one can be charged or called a criminal for participating in peaceful protests.

Cañedo, one of the arrested protesters, also said that the junking of their cases is a significant step toward asserting their democratic rights and achieving justice.

The court earlier dismissed two cases against the Cebu 8 on September 2020 regarding violation of Covid-19 protocols and public health. *AP*



Red Salute!

Inspiration of revolutionaries

IN THIS ARTICLE, WE REMEMBER Red fighters who firmly held their revolutionary standpoint in the face of difficulties and the brutality of the reactionary state.

In their martyrdom, they showed the spirit of bravery that served as inspiration to revolutionaries to further strengthen the armed revolution in order to advance the interests of the exploited and oppressed people.

Ka Zian

Alvin Lumagsao Sinsano (Ka Zian/Land), 34 years old, was born on August 11, 1989 in Brgy. Asia, Hinobaan, Negros Occidental. He hailed from the poor peasant class. He finished elementary and helped his parents in their small farm lot.

Ka Zian's family was influenced by the revolutionary movement. His brother, Ka Bobby, was martyred in an encounter last September 14, 2021 in Ilog, Negros Occidental.

He committed to being a full-timer in 2017. He was deeply concerned about the welfare of his comrades and the masses, always ready to give his best and strength, and had high revolutionary optimism. He also emphasized the importance of every centavo of support from the masses. He was also fond of singing and dancing.

Ka Zian industriously and diligently performed his tasks as food and logistics officer, political guide, squad leader until becoming part of the front's finance staff.

Ka Zian was brutally killed by 15th IB troops when surrounded the house he was resting in at Sitio Camboguiot, Brgy. Camindangan, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental on August 1.

Ka Tata

Reggie Fundador (Ka Tata), 23 years old, hailed from a peasant family in Brgy Cabia-an, Candoni, Negros Occidental.

Ka Tata became a full-timer in 2020. He was always cheerful and you seldom see him sad. Despite his difficulty in writing and reading, he never shied away from studying. He was hardworking in looking for food and cooking them, both for comrades and the masses. Comrades always remember his catchphrase, "*Kondisyon!* (In top condition!)" especially when the unit is on the move.

Ka Tata served as team leader, vice squad leader and later, became part of the finance and logistics staff along with Ka Zian.

Ka Tata was ruthlessly killed by 15th IB forces in Brgy. Camindangan, Sipalay City on July 30. The day before, July 29, he was captured by the said military while walking towards Sitio Badjang, in the same barangay. The next day, his dead body was discovered at Crossing Magtanday in the same barangay. He was tortured before being killed.

Ka Rustom

Edmar Sulano (Ka Rustom), 24 years old, was born into a poor farmer family in Brgy. Nagbinlod, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental. He was born on October 9, 1999 and was the fifth among 10 siblings. He only finished Grade 3 because of poverty. He was a member of the Kabataang Makabayan (KM) and Yunit Milisya (YM) in his area.

Ka Rustom grew up in a progressive family. As a result, his family was often red-tagged and accused of trumped-up charges. During Oplan Sauron 2 in 2019, the military killed his brother-in-law and forced his father and two brothers to surrender which led to their imprisonment until now.

Because of this, Ka Rustom decided to commit to being full-time in 2021. He was good in reconnaissance work. He became a medical officer and political guide. He was also known to be good at cultural presentations, endearing him to his comrades and the masses.

Ka Rustom constantly reminded comrades that only the armed struggle can give hope to the people against the reactionary government's tyranny.

"Inspiration..." from page 18

Ka Rustom was martyred last January 18 in a counter-offensive of the Rachele Mae Palang Command-New People's Army (RMPC-NPA) against the 11th IB at Sitio Sug-ong, Brgy. San Francisco, Sta Catalina.

Ka Kendi

Ruby Almines (Ka Kendi), 27 years old, was born in 1996 into a family of middle peasants and was the eldest of five siblings. He finished Grade 9. He helped his family in farming to support his siblings who are going to school. He also worked for people to help further in the family's livelihood.

In 2020, Ka Kendi was red-tagged by the military and was threatened to face trumped-up charges alongside his father. Due to this, he joined the NPA.

Ka Kendi developed his knowledge of propaganda, medical, and cultural work. Later, he became a political guide. He was active in mass work especially in opening new areas and helping build mass organizations. He was cheerful and even in difficult situations, he looked for a way to make comrades laugh.

In the face of intensified militarization and despite pressure from his family to surrender, Ka Kendi never wavered. He said, "only the revolution can change society and only death can separate me from armed struggle."

Ka Kendi was martyred in an encounter between the RMPC-NPA and 11th IB on August 24, 2023 in Sityo Taleo, Brgy. Milagrosa, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental.

Ka Jorge

Joshua Sultan (Ka Jorge), 19 years old, came from the middle peasant class in Brgy. Winaswasan, Calatrava, Negros

Occidental. He tended to their small sugar cane farm and also worked as a sugarcane cutter and hauler.

Ka Jorge resolved to join the NPA on May 2023 when Red fighters operated in their place and he understood the role of the NPA as defender of the poor.

Ka Jorge was cheerful. He was persistent in learning and was active in discussions and trainings. He also became a literacy and numeracy instructor.

Ka Jorge was martyred along with Emarie Pastidio (Ka Jandy) in an encounter between the Roselyn Jean Pelle Command-New People's Army (RJPC-NPA) and 79th IB troops on February 22 in Sitio Mansulao, Brgy. Pinapugasan, Escalante City, Negros Occidental.

Ka Arnold

Amado Atoy (Ka Arnold), 33 years old, came from Brgy. San Pablo, Manapla, Negros Occiden-

tal. He was the eldest of eight siblings and supported his family and siblings' schooling. His parents were influenced by the revolutionary movement during the 80's.

Because he witnessed severe exploitation by landlords of him as a farm worker, Ka Arnold decided to join the NPA in northern Negros in 2021. For Ka Arnold, only through revolution can a better future for farm workers be achieved.

Ka Arnold was known to be calm and hardworking in his tasks.

Ka Arnold was martyred when 79th IB troops raided the house where he and some comrades were staying in Sitio Tabunoc, Brgy. Libertad, Escalante City, on April 20, 2023. "I will die before I surrender!" These were the final words heard by his comrades as Ka Arnold courageously faced the enemy so that they could retreat safely. *RP*





Medical Advice

What is dengue fever?

DENGUE FEVER IS A DISEASE that comes from the bite of a mosquito carrying the dengue virus. Its symptoms are similar to fever which can worsen into dengue hemorrhagic fever and can be life-threatening. Dengue is not a contagious disease.

Most cases of dengue do not show symptoms. If there are any symptoms, it is high fever. Symptoms can be felt within four to 10 days.

Continue "Medical..." on page 21

Kalaw

"Kalaw-ay Uy" ang iya ginpakilala,
Sa pinakauna namong panagkita,
Didto sa lugar kung diin ang masa,
Nidawat namo nga waay pagduha-duha.

Sa likod ni Ka Juanito Magbanua,
Ara si Kalaw nga perti siawa.
Amo nga bisan diin pa man siya magsalhin,
Sa masa kag kaupod siya nangin kabahin.

Way duda nga bakod ang iya baruganan
Kay taliwala sa sakit sa kalawasan,
Giatubang niya ang sakripisyo kag kabudlayan
Para sa interes kag kaayohan sa kadamuan.

Nagpamatuod ini nga ang iya panan-awan,
Nakabasi gid sa kun ano man ang kahimtang
Kung diin dako ang panginahanglan,
Agud malab-ot gid ang kadalag-an.

Ang kahuyangan sa pamaagi sa paghulag indi ma-likawan,

Bisan pa sa pariha ni Ka Kalaw nga lawig na sa kahublagan.
Amo nga padayon siya nga nagasandig sa proseso.

Subong nga brutal siya nga gipatay sa mga berdugo,
Buwas magadamo pa ang mangin rebolusyonaryo,
Magabaskog pa gid ang mga hangaway sang pumu-luyo,
Agud dugmukon ang kaaway sa atubangan kag luyo.

May adlaw ang mga AFP nga tikalon
Bangud ang mga NPA magapadayon,
Sa pagsulong tubtob sa estratehikong opensiba
Kun diin ang Partido, Hukbo kag masa mubirada.

Ang kamatayon ni Ka Kalaw o ni Ka Juanito Magbanua,
Magserbi nga hangkat para pabakuron ang aton kawsa,
Para perdihon ang mga tonto nga imperyalista
Nga sa tuta nga gobyerno desperadong nagadikta. **AP**



For Romeo Nanta (Ka Juanito Magbanua),
spokesperson of the Apolinario Gatmaitan
Command-New People's Army
Negros Island Regional Operational Command
until he was captured and salvaged (killed)
on October 2022)

October 13, 2022



"Medical..." from page 20

Symptoms of mild dengue:

- 1. Fever or no fever
- 2. Rashes
- 3. Pain around the eyes
- 4. Abdominal pain or nausea
- 5. Pains in the muscle, bones and joints

Herbal Medicine:

- 1. Tawa-tawa
- 2. Papaya leaf extract
- 3. Papaya leaves
- 4. Paracetamol

Preparation: Wash herbal ingredients thoroughly, including other utensils (chopping board, knife, pot, ladle, glass and spoon)

Duration of treatment: Make patient drink boiled herbal ingredients for 10 days

1. *Tawa-tawa* - take 100 grams or a fistful of tawa-tawa stem and boil it in 1 liter of water for 15 minutes. Let it cool and make the patient drink it 4 to 5 times a day.

2. *Papaya extract* - Take two stems of papaya leaves and slice the leaves into small pieces, squeeze and filter in clean cloth. Drink 2 spoonfuls of papaya extract per day.

3. *Papaya leaves* - take 2 leaves and slice them and boil in 1 liter of water for 15 minutes. Let it cool and make the patient drink it 4 to 5 times a day.

Patient should drink plenty of fluids because dengue patients need it:

- 1. Water
- 2. Coconut water - equivalent to dextrose
- 3. Juice (Calamansi or lemon)
- 4. Milk

5. Eat porridge, vegetables and fruits that are soft and are easy to digest

Caution:

The patient should not eat sauteed or oily and spicy food.

In acute dengue (hemorrhagic fever), symptoms can appear from 24 to 28 hours after patient's fever subsides. Thus, do not be complacent because the fever is gone, the patient is recovering. If symptoms persist, bring the patient to the hospital for immediate medical attention.

Symptoms of acute dengue:

- 1. Abdominal pain
- 2. Repeated vomiting
- 3. Bloody stool
- 4. Bleeding from nose or gums
- 5. Severe fatigue, restlessness

Complications of dengue in pregnant women:

- 1. Possible miscarriage
- 2. Premature delivery

How to reduce the risk of or avoid dengue fever?

- 1. Use mosquito net at night
- 2. Maintain cleanliness inside the house and surrounding area
- 3. Pour out water accumulated in containers without lids such as bottles, rubber, plant pots, coconut shells, and other possible places where mosquitos can dwell and lay eggs

Acupuncture points than can help dengue patients:

Large Intestine 4, Large Intestine 11, Large Intestine 10, Large Intestine 9, Stomach 36, Yentang, Spleen 6, Liver 3, Kidney 3 **AP**

ADVANCE THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION THRU A PROTRACTED PEOPLE'S WAR!

